LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 10, 1996/ Asadha 19, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was played.

11.02 hrs.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, the situation of price rise...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You may raise it after the introduction of Ministers.

11.02½ hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister may introduce the Ministers to the House.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Sir, I introduce to you and through you to the House, my colleagues :

Cabinet Ministers :

1. Shri Beni Prasad Verma, Minister of Communications
2. Shri Chaturanan Mishra, Minister of Agriculture
3. Shri Indrajit Gupta, Minister of Home Affairs
4. Shri Janeshwar Mishra, Minister of Water Resources
5. Shri R.L. Jalappa, Minister of Textiles
6. Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Tourism

Ministers of State (Independent Charge) :

7. Shri Bolla Buli Ramaiah, Minister of State of the Ministry of Commerce
8. Shri Dilip Kumar Ray, Minister of State of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
9. Shri Raghubans Prasad Singh, Minister of State of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the Ministry of Agriculture
10. Shri Ramakant D. Khalap, Minister of State of the Department of Legal Affairs, Legislative Department and Department of Justice
11. Shri Shees Ram Ola, Minister of State of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
12. Shri Yoginder K. Alagh, Minister of State of the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation and Minister of State of the Ministry of Science and Technology

Ministers of State :

13. Shri Dhanushkodi R. Athithan, Minister of State in the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports in the Ministry of Human Resource Development
14. Shri Mohd. Maqbool Dar, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
15. Shri Muhi Ram Saikia, Minister of State in the Department of Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development
16. Shri N.V.N. Somu, Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence
17. Shri Satpalji Maharj, Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways.
18. Shri Sr. Balasubramoniyan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
19. Shri T.R. Balu, Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, I am on a point of information. We hear from the newspapers that one Minister has resigned. Is he making any statement in the House as to why he had to resign? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You may raise it later, after obituary references.

11.05 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER . Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House with profound sorrow of the sad demise of our former colleagues, Shri M. Subha Reddy, Dr Manoj Pandey and Shri Yagya Datt Sharma.

Shri M. Subha Reddy was a Member of Eighth Lok Sabha representing Nandyal Parliamentary constituency of Andhra Pradesh during 1984-89

Earlier, he had been a member of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council during 1958-72 and Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1972-78.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Reddy was an able and active parliamentarian. He took keen

interest in focussing the attention of the House to agrarian problems and issues relating to rural development.

Shri Reddy lost his life in tragic circumstances when he fell victim to a bomb attack on 20 June, 1996 in Kurnool town in Andhra Pradesh at the age of 82 years.

Dr Manoj Pandey was a Member of Eighth Lok Sabha representing Bettiah parliamentary constituency of Bihar during 1984-89.

An Agriculturist and medical practitioner by profession, Dr. Pandey was an active political and social worker. He worked ceaselessly for the upliftment of the poor and weaker sections of the society He rendered free medical service to the people and imparted free education to the children belonging to poor and backward classes of the society

Dr Pandey actively participated in the proceedings of the House

He passed away at Hilton Hospital in London on 3 July, 1996 at a young age of 45 years.

Shri Yagya Datt Sharma was a Member of Fourth and Sixth Lok Sabha representing Amritsar and Gurdaspur parliamentary constituencies of Punjab during 1967-70 and 1977-79.

He also served as Governor of Orissa.

An ayurvedic physician by profession, Shri Sharma dedicated his entire life to the improvement of indigenous system of medicine and vigorously strove for promotion of the Ayurvedic system of medicine. During the famines of 1943 in Bengal and Kangra-Kula valley in 1945-46, he alongwith a team of doctors from Punjab provided succour to the famine-stricken people He also worked for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees in 1947 and rendered medical assistance to the sick

An able parliamentarian, Shri Sharma lost no opportunity to focus the attention of the House to the problems faced by the peasants and the deprived sections of the society. He was member of various Parliamentary Committees

Shri Sharma passed away in New Delhi on 4 July, 1996 at the age of 75 years

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the berraved families

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased

11.08 hrs.

The Member then stood in silence for a short while

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) Sir the people are agitating because of the high price rise

MR. SPEAKER : Question number one.

(Interruptions)

11.09 hrs.

(At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee came and sat on the floor near the Table.)

(Interruptions)

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : The Government has not given any statement ...*(Interruptions)*. There is no question whether they are going to reduce the price or not.

MR. SPEAKER : Now please listen to me. Go back to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Mamataji, this is not the way

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Look here. Listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If your are interested, why do you not listen to me? Please sit down Please go back to your seats and listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not listen to me?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are all responsible Members. We all know the seriousness of the issue. It is not that only one or two Members of Parliament are concerned about this issue We are all concerned I am concerned

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : That is why we are asking about this.

MR. SPEAKER Yes. There is a time to do everything

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : I will take up the issue immediately after the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot take the House for granted. This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have agreed to take up this issue immediately after the Question Hour.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) Mr Speaker, Sir, please give me one minute to say something

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, it was decided yesterday that this matter will be taken up after the Question Hour. The hon. Member may not be knowing about it. Today morning the Prime Minister has also assured us that he would reply to each and every point. In view of this, I would request our Member to come back to her seat. We have got the assurance of the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev said was not audible to us. Probably he said that this matter should be taken up after the Question Hour is over and Kumari Mamata Banerjee should be allowed to speak first. We are all very such concerned about this issue. We do not leave our claim for Adjournment Motion only because some Member comes to the well of the House. That would not be correct ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. Yesterday, in the meeting of the Leaders of the political Parties and Groups this issue came up for discussion. The Government readily agreed for a discussion on this issue in the House. The unanimous decision of the political parties in the meeting was that so, this has already been decided. Where is hte necessity for all these things? The whole nation is worried about this. When we are going to discuss this matter, why do you not do things in a decent manner? Do it in a decent manner, Mamata Banerjee. Do it in a serious manner. This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Have respect for Parliament. The Parliament has a different sanctity. Have respect for Parliament. Please respect Parliament. I cannot say beyond this. I appeal to the Members of Parliament to have respect for Parliament. That is all I can say.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, ruling party is running the Government with the support of the Congress Party. They should sit and discuss together...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, not only Parliament but the whole country is concerned about this issue. This issue must be discussed seriously. It is not only all the political parties but also the people of the country are concerned about this issue. So, my request to you is, let us discuss this matter very seriously...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to say something. Whatever was decided yesterday, should be followed and if Mr. Santosh Mohan of the Congress party says that Kumari Mamata Banerjee could not be informed then it could be well understood. There could be a communication gap. My submission is that the Question Hour should be taken up and after that the issue that is agitating us all should be taken up. I am happy that if the MPs of the Congress Party, even if they are supporting Government, are making their opinion on the basis of merits of the case, then a chance should be given to discuss the issue. We have given a notice for the Adjournment Motion and would like to press for that. We would also like that the member of the Congress Party should also support it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us take up the questions first.

11.16 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Natural Calamities

[English]

*2. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several States have been hard hit by the recent rains, cyclones and floods and a lot of damage to crops, human lives, animals and houses has been caused due to these natural calamities;

(b) if so, the names of areas affected thereby;

(c) the details of losses suffered in regard to human lives, crops, houses and livestocks, State-wise and Union-Territory wise;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to extend substantial financial assistance out of Natural Calamity Fund to the State Governments for rendering relief in their affected areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and amount released for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (e). According to reports received from the State Governments, parts of 12 States have been affected in varying degrees by floods as a result of cyclones and heavy rains during the current South